



Commonwealth of Kentucky Governor's Office of Energy Policy

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Secretary Leonard Peters Recognizes Kentucky's First Platinum LEED Building

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Secretary Leonard Peters, Kentucky's next Energy and Environmental Secretary when the current Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet is reorganized, attended the "Celebrate Bernheim" event today to recognize the green design of the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest's Visitor Center. Secretary Peters presented a certificate, signed by Governor Beshear, recognizing their leadership in sustainable design.

The new Visitors Center and Education Center was awarded the prestigious LEED Platinum certification by the US Green Building Council in December, 2007. Secretary Peter's attendance today was intended to bring recognition to this facility as one of the most environmentally friendly facilities in the world. It is the only Platinum LEED Certified buildings in Kentucky and one of only 75 in the nation.

At the ceremony today, Secretary Peters commented that "This kind of leadership is great for Kentucky. This voluntary effort helps address, in a very meaningful way, several significant environmental issues. Making our buildings greener helps reduce waste, water, and air emissions. And, it enriches our personal lives with better living and working environments."

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) certifies sustainable businesses, homes, hospitals, schools, and neighborhoods through its LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™. The USGBC is dedicated to expanding green building practices and education. LEED is a third party certification program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

Because buildings represent such a large part of our resource consumption and environmental footprint, green building practices have increased dramatically in popularity. Buildings use 71% of the nation's electricity, 12% of the potable water, are responsible for 65% of the waste generated, and 39% of the carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to global climate change. Across the Commonwealth, nine other buildings have been LEED certified and there are another 25 buildings under construction to earn the LEED certification.

The Bernheim Visitor Center is open to the public daily, from 9:00 to 5:00. Trails and activities are available to visitors. For more information on the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, visit <http://www.bernheim.org/index.html>.

For more information on the U.S. Green Building Council and the LEED certification program visit <http://www.usgbc.org/>.

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